

India National Statement by Dr. Sekhar Basu, Chairman, AEC and Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy at the IAEA International Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Power in the 21st Century, Abu Dhabi October 30 to November 01, 2017.

Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning to all of you,

It is my great pleasure and privilege to deliver the National Statement on behalf of Government of India. We compliment IAEA, Government of United Arab Emirates and the NEA of OECD for organising this important Ministerial Conference in this modern city of Abu Dhabi.

India considers International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) as the principal international agency promoting peaceful uses of nuclear energy and has always given primacy to its role. I also compliment the organisers for selecting the very apt themes for the successive conferences. The basic theme of these conferences has been the role of nuclear power as a sustainable clean energy source. In fact these aspects are among the top priorities of Government of India and coincide with our vision for sustainable and inclusive development.

For optimum utilization of fissile and fertile material available in India and also for efficient waste management, India has opted for closed fuel cycle. This will ensure sustainability of nuclear power in the country. Presently, India is operating 22 reactors, contributing to about 3% of the total power generation in the country. With the recent approval of 10 more indigenous Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) and 2 Pressurised Water Reactors (PWRs) with Russian technical co-operation, the total number of reactors under construction will be 21, and this will increase the nuclear power production to over 22,000 MWe by 2030, three times the present capacity.

Mr. President,

Presently, 18 PHWRs are in operation in India and 16 more are under various stages of implementation. The 700 MWe PHWRs presently under construction offers the state-of-the-art technology and highest standard of safety. Simultaneous construction of these reactors will revive the Indian nuclear industry involving high end technology. The nuclear power in India from PHWRs is sold at about 4 cents per unit. India is ready to share this technology with other Member States of IAEA, if required.

2 Boiling Water reactors presently in operation at Tarapur is nearing 50 years of operation and has established the long life expectancy from nuclear reactors.

As a part of our vision for sustainable use of nuclear energy, India is building Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor of 500 MWe capacity at Kalpakkam. The plant is under commissioning now. We plan to build many more plants of similar type in due course to enhance the utilization of nuclear material multi-fold.

Co-operation among the countries in the development of nuclear power is an essential element in ensuring security and safety. India has entered into an agreement with Russia and Bangladesh for providing technical support for the construction of the VVER at Rooppur in Bangladesh.

We have taken multi-pronged approach to increase the awareness about the benefits of nuclear energy as a safe sustainable option in a simple and understandable manner to address the apprehension of the Indian population.

I once again thank the organisers of the Conference and wish this Conference great success.

Thank you.